

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) An electronic apparatus including a plurality of elements, the apparatus comprising:

a program storing section for storing a first program for controlling basic operations of said electronic apparatus so that basic operations of the apparatus are executed by controlling elements of the apparatus via the first program, and a second program that is a subroutine and is accessed in said first program so as to control an additional operation of said electronic apparatus so that the second program controls the additional operation that is different than the basic operations controlled by the first program, wherein the second program becomes available via elements of the apparatus that can execute the basic operations via the first program;

a control section for implementing a desired operation by executing only said first program, or both said first and second programs; and

a system managing section that, in response to a releasing key operation that renders the additional operation implementable, makes said second program permanently accessible in said first program, and wherein said first program is accessible and operable both before and after the releasing key operation so that one releasing key operation makes the second program permanently accessible following said one releasing key operation, and wherein the second program is a subroutine of the first program.

2. (Original) The electronic apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein said releasing key is produced using at least information peculiar to said apparatus.

3. (Original) The electronic apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

said electronic apparatus is connected with a managing side via a wide-area network; and
the releasing key operation is carried out by the managing side by remote control.

4. (Original) The electronic apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

said program storing section stores a plurality of second programs; and
with respect to a certain combination of said second programs, said system managing
section renders said second programs implementable by only one releasing-key operation.

5. (Currently amended) An electronic apparatus comprising:

a program storing section for storing a first program for controlling basic operations of
said electronic apparatus so that basic operations of the apparatus are executed by controlling
elements of the apparatus via the first program, and a second program that cooperates with at
least a part of said first program so as to implement an additional operation of said electronic
apparatus, wherein the second program is a subroutine of the first program wherein the second
program controls at least one additional operation that is different than the basic operations
controlled by the first program, wherein the second program becomes available via elements of
the apparatus that can execute the basic operations via the first program;

a system managing section that, in response to a releasing key operation that renders the
additional operation implementable, makes said second program permanently accessible, the first
program being accessible prior to the releasing key operation; and

wherein said releasing key operation determines whether the release key information matches release key information stored in memory and if so then making the second program permanently accessible so that one releasing key operation makes the second program permanently accessible following said one releasing key operation.

6. (Original) The electronic apparatus as set forth in claim 5, wherein said releasing key is produced using at least information peculiar to said apparatus.

7. (Original) The electronic apparatus as set forth in claim 5, wherein:
said electronic apparatus is connected with a managing side via a wide-area network; and
the releasing key operation is carried out by the managing side by remote control.

8. (Original) The electronic apparatus as set forth in claim 5, wherein:
said program storing section stores a plurality of second programs; and
with respect to a certain combination of said second programs, said system managing section renders said second programs implementable by only one releasing-key operation.

9. (Currently amended) A management system for managing an electronic apparatus, said electronic apparatus including:

a program storing section for storing a first program for controlling basic operations of said electronic apparatus so that basic operations of the apparatus are executed by controlling elements of the apparatus via the first program, and a second program that is accessible in said first program and controls an additional operation of said electronic apparatus, wherein the

second program is a subroutine of the first program wherein the second program controls at least one additional operation that is different than the basic operations controlled by the first program, wherein the second program becomes available via elements of the apparatus that can execute the basic operations via the first program;

a control section for implementing a desired operation by executing only said first program, or both said first and second programs; and

a system managing section that, in response to a releasing key operation, makes said second program permanently accessible by said first program,

said management system comprising a key issuing section on a managing side, said key issuing section issuing said releasing key upon confirming that a predetermined procedure has been conducted by a user side so that one releasing key operation makes the second program permanently accessible following said one releasing key operation, and wherein said first program is accessible and operable both before and after the releasing key operation.

10. (Original) The management system as set forth in claim 9, wherein said releasing key is produced using at least information peculiar to said apparatus.

11. (Original) The electronic apparatus as set forth in claim 9, wherein:
said electronic apparatus is connected with a managing side via a wide-area network; and
said key issuing section carries out the releasing key operation of said system managing section by remote control.

12. (Original) The management system as set forth in claim 9, wherein, on said managing side, said key issuing section issues said releasing key in response to entrance into a use contract or payment of a use fee.

13. (Original) The management system as set forth in claim 9, wherein history information relating to said issuance of a releasing key is managed by said managing side.

14. (Original) The management system as set forth in claim 9, wherein:
said program storing section stores a plurality of second programs; and
with respect to a certain combination of said second programs, said system managing section renders said second programs implementable by only one releasing-key operation.

15. (Currently amended) A management system for managing an electronic apparatus, said electronic apparatus including:

a program storing section for storing a first program for controlling basic operations of said electronic apparatus so that basic operations of the apparatus are executed by controlling elements of the apparatus via the first program, and a second program that cooperates with at least a part of said first program so as to implement an additional operation of said electronic apparatus, wherein the second program is a subroutine of the first program wherein the second program controls at least one additional operation that is different than the basic operations controlled by the first program, wherein the second program becomes available via elements of the apparatus that can execute the basic operations via the first program; and

a system managing section that, in response to a releasing key operation, makes said second program permanently accessible, so that one releasing key operation makes the second program permanently accessible following said one releasing key operation,

said management system comprising a key issuing section on a managing side, said key issuing section issuing said releasing key upon confirming that a predetermined procedure has been conducted by a user side, and wherein said first program is accessible and operable both before and after the releasing key operation.

16. (Original) The management as set forth in claim 15, wherein said releasing key is produced using at least information peculiar to said apparatus.

17. (Original) The electronic apparatus as set forth in claim 15, wherein:
said electronic apparatus is connected with a managing side via a wide-area network; and
said key issuing section carries out the releasing key operation of said system managing section by remote control.

18. (Original) The management system as set forth in claim 15, wherein, on said managing side, said key issuing section issues said releasing key in response to entrance into a use contract or payment of a use fee.

19. (Original) The management system as set forth in claim 15, wherein history information relating to said issuance of a releasing key is managed by said managing side.

20. (Original) The management system as set forth in claim 15, wherein:
said program storing section stores a plurality of second programs; and
with respect to a certain combination of said second programs, said system managing section renders said second programs implementable by only one releasing-key operation.

21. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said releasing key operation comprises, in response to a request by the electronic apparatus, the electronic apparatus receiving release key information from a service center remote from the electronic apparatus and determining whether the release key information matches release key information stored in memory and if so then making the second program accessible.

22. (New) The electronic apparatus of claim 1, wherein the electronic apparatus is an image forming apparatus, a combination of the image forming apparatus and a peripheral device realizes an image forming system, wherein the first program is a program for controlling the image forming apparatus and the second program is a program for controlling the peripheral device that works with the image forming apparatus.

23. (New) The electronic apparatus of claim 5, wherein the electronic apparatus is an image forming apparatus, a combination of the image forming apparatus and a peripheral device realizes an image forming system, wherein the first program is a program for controlling the image forming apparatus and the second program is a program for controlling the peripheral device that works with the image forming apparatus.

24. (New) The electronic apparatus of claim 9, wherein the electronic apparatus is an image forming apparatus, a combination of the image forming apparatus and a peripheral device realizes an image forming system, wherein the first program is a program for controlling the image forming apparatus and the second program is a program for controlling the peripheral device that works with the image forming apparatus.